



PII Cross-Site Evaluation Overview

The federal Permanency Innovations Initiative (PII) is a multi-site federal demonstration project designed to improve permanency outcomes for children in foster care who face the most serious barriers to achieving permanency¹. The PII Approach to Evaluation supports a key goal of PII: to rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of research-informed innovations and adapted evidence-supported interventions (ESIs) in reducing long-term foster care (LTFC). PII includes an evaluation team (PII-ET) and six grantee organizations with different experiences and perspectives on evaluation. One component of the PII Approach to Evaluation is the cross-site evaluation which investigates the implementation of interventions designed to reduce LTFC and the effectiveness of those interventions to do so across the grantees. The following research questions guide the cross-site evaluation:

- Do PII interventions reduce LTFC?
- Do PII interventions achieve shorter-term outcomes, such as improved readiness for permanency?
- Do case-level entry characteristics (e.g., child age) influence the achievement of shorter-term outcomes and reduction in LTFC?
- Does service delivery influence the achievement of shorter-term outcomes and reduction in LTFC?
- Is the implementation capacity of grantees improved?
- What are the costs of the [PII Approach](#)?
- What are the costs of operating a fully implemented intervention?

To answer these questions, PII-ET designed a mixed-method evaluation that combines quantitative and qualitative techniques. The cross-site evaluation draws upon site-specific evaluations that include:

- Analysis of administrative data, which will examine child and family level characteristics (e.g., child age, foster care placement history, and length of foster care placement) and change in LTFC over time;
- An implementation study, which will include : (1) the Implementation Quotient (IQ) tracker to measure the percent of practitioners implementing the intervention with fidelity; (2) a baseline web survey of organizational readiness to change; (3) a case study to gather information on the context in which the organization operates, the organizational structure, project resources, and key activities; and (4) web-based implementation driver assessment surveys to track the implementation processes used by grantees; and
- Primary data studies, which will include collecting data on selected short-term outcomes (e.g., change in trauma symptom severity, improvement in parenting skills, and readiness for reunification) that are unavailable in child welfare administrative data systems.

The cross-site evaluation also includes an assessment of the cost of implementation. The cost study involves collecting administrative cost data for implementing the intervention and may also include case log reviews to document grantee agency casework, supervision, and management activities required of implementation. Collecting this information allows PII-ET to draw conclusions about the effectiveness and cost of the various interventions implemented in PII to improve permanency outcomes across a diverse range of child welfare target populations.

Cross-site study findings will be released by 2018.

For more information contact [George Gabel](#), PII-ET Project Director.

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